

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 1-3 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 8 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Further, the specification and the drawings have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. The Application Contains Continuity Data

The Office Action objects to the application because continuity data should be included. Applicant submits a copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application on August 19, 2003, where on page 2, it is shown that the continuity data has been added to the application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection based on continuity data is respectfully requested.

II. The Drawings Satisfy Formal Matters

1. The Office Action objects to the drawings because they do not show the alternative embodiment that provides the operating button 11 without its own spring 15 bit in a way which relies entirely on the bias force of the piezo spring. Applicant has submitted a new drawings where Fig. 1A shows this feature. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

2. The Office Action objects to the drawings because description pertaining to reference numerals 28, 29 and 55 and 28A, 29 and 55A are not in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

3. Reference numerals 28, 29 and 55 are described on page 5, first paragraph. Further on page 6, lines 10-17, the specification describes reference numerals 28A, 29 and 55A. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

4. The Office Action objects to the drawings because in Fig. 2, projection 18 is on one of the elements 13-14 shown in leader line pointing to only one of the projections and

only one element 13 of elements 13-14. Fig. 2 has been corrected to shown projection 18 on one of the elements 13-14. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification states that the projections are on one of the elements 13-14. They are in fact shown on element 13. Element 14 does not have any projections. Thus, the reference numeral 18 properly points to the projection on element 13 only.

5. The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(b).

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no existing gas lighting rod shell which has the present shape. Similarly, existing gas lighting rods include piezoelectric elements, there is no existing such rod that has its piezoelectric element that is precisely in the position used in the present invention. The present invention involves the introduction of novel operating principle for the operating mechanism. Implementing that novel principle involves designing all the individual components to operate and interact properly, and that affects many components and features (such as the piezoelectric element) which is also used in the prior art. In other words, the old parts and the new parts cannot be separated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(b) is respectfully requested.

6. The Office Action objects to the drawings because the Figures do not illustrate how the gas flows to the end of the nozzle assembly 45 or how compression of the elements 13 and 14 of the piezoelectric mechanism 13-14 together and the generation of a spark at the end of the nozzle assembly 45. Applicant amends the drawings by adding the tubes in Fig. 1 from 41 to the right-hand end of 45. Figs. 2 and 3 are similarly added. Further, the flame end of the lighting rod is entirely conventional. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. The Specification Satisfies Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the specification based on formal matters. Applicant has amended the specification to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

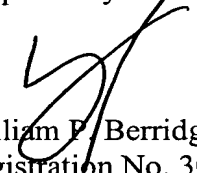
IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claim 8 has been canceled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:YSC/cmf

Attachment:

Copy of August 19, 2003 Preliminary Amendment

Date: March 2, 2004

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